Hyderabad on 10th April, 2006 with the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra, in connection with drawing up a pacakge for the districts worst affected by the incidence of suicide by farmers. The package would address their credit, insurance, irrigation and subsidiary income needs, through dairy, poultry and horticulture.

Social security cover for fishermen

2904. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have schemes and programmes for the social security cover for the fishermen against accidents caused by cyclone, super-cyclone, etc.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the details of steps taken or proposed to be taken for the socio-economic protection of small fishermen in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) to (d) The assistance is extend to the people including fishermen affected by the natural calamities such as cyclone, super-cyclone etc. from the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). This includes repair/replacement of boats, nets demaged or lost, input subsidy etc. Besides, Centrally Sponsored National Scheme of Welfare of Fishermen comprising of Group Accident Insurance for Active Fishermen, Development of Model Fishermen Villages through construction of houses, community hall and drinking water facilities and Saving-cum-Relief components is in operation during the Tenth Plan. Under the Group Accident Insurance component, assistance of Rs. 50,000 in case of accidental death/Permanent total disability and Rs,. 25000 for permanent partial disability is provided to the families of the affected fishermen cover under the scheme. Further, safety of fishermen at sea is one of the main components of the macro scheme on Development of Marine Fisheries, Infrastructure and Post Harvest Operations. Under this component, financial assistance to the extent of 20% cost or subject to maximum of Rs. 30,000 per unit is extended through National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) for installation of

Global Positioning System (GPS) and wireless set on the small mechanized fishing vessles of below 20 meter length.

Broker's activities in vegetable markets

†2905. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the brokers working in vegetable markets (Sabji Mandi) buy vegetables at a low price from farmers and sell these to consumers at almost double price;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the provision made by Government to ensure that farmers should get reasonable price of their products and consumers, too, should get vegetables at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Agriculture marketing being a State subject, the intermediaries/brokers are regulated by the provisions of Agricultural Produce Marketing (Regulation) Act (APMC Act)/Rules of the respective States. The role of broker in the market is to negotiate the deal between the buyer and the seller for which brokerage is charged at a stipulated rate fixed under bye-laws of the Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee under the APMC Act/Rules. There are other intermediaries like Commission agents, wholesalers, retailers under different marketing channels through which the produce of farmers reaches to the consumers. The studies conducted by the Ministry in 2004 has estimated that the share of farmers in ultimate price of fruits and vegetables varies from 32% to 68% depending on the marketing channel adopted, the distance of the markets and the infrastructure facilities available.

(c) With a view to ensure reasonable price to the farmer for his produce and availability of vegetables at reasonable price to the consumer by reducing the number of intermediaries, this Ministry has circulated a Model Act namely, the State Agricultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2003 to all the states to guide them in bringing changes in their respective APMC Acts to allow direct marketing, contract farming and to permit setting up of competitive markets in private and cooperative

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.